

Annapolis, 21st Feb. 1834.

To the Committee on Internal Improvement,

Gentlemen:—Personally, I have assured you, of the precise state and prospects of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, and now take the liberty of reducing some of my remarks to writing, that the sincerity with which they have been offered, may assume a more certain form.

I take leave to remark that the wealth of all countries must depend upon the active and profitable industry of the people. The earth is the source of all gain, and those who expect it through any other channel, will be disappointed. Looking to this source, I undertake to say, that no state of this union, presents a finer or more open field than yours. Bold and active statesmen should come forth to stem the current of the moment, and persuade the people to their interest, against every thing of prevailing prejudice. There never was a subject presented for consideration, and perhaps never will be, in which uncertainty and doubt, may not in some degree be made to mingle. It is the nature of mankind to perceive things through different mediums, and in different lights. Those are peculiarly fortunate, who looking ahead, can discern, and discerning, can have confidence to pursue the measures which shall be of service to those who are to follow hereafter. No wonder then, that the representatives of Maryland, anxiously alive to the best interest of the people whom they represent, are found to differ as to the effects to be produced, and the benefits to be derived to the State, from a further prosecution of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

This state possesses great natural advantages; yet to make them fully available, art and exertion are needed. She has a fine Bay, stretching along the whole of her Eastern section, whence may be derived essential benefits from its products if an advantageous market were offered; but the market is a limited one, because the facilities of an interior